

## THE SENATE.

*Ottawa, Monday, 29th March, 1897.*

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at Eight O'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

## NEW SENATOR.

Hon. JOHN LOVITT was introduced and took his seat.

## THE ADDRESS.

## MOTION.

Hon. Mr. COX moved,—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to offer the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely:—

To HIS EXCELLENCY the Right Honourable Sir JOHN CAMPBELL HAMILTON GORDON, Earl of Aberdeen; Viscount Formartine, Baron Haddo, Methlic, Tarves and Kellie, in the Peerage of Scotland; Viscount Gordon of Aberdeen, County of Aberdeen, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Baronet of Nova Scotia; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, etc., etc., Governor General of Canada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

He said:—An unwillingness to shrink from the discharge of any duty that may be entrusted to me by the honoured leader of this House must be my apology for presuming to occupy your time thus early in my parliamentary experience.

I have accepted the task of moving the address with the greatest diffidence. I feel that I must ask for the indulgence of the Senate when I venture to make my first remarks before them upon subjects of such great importance as those contained in the Speech from the Throne.

I am pleased to know that the first topic to be referred to is one on which there can be no two opinions in this chamber, and no two opinions in this country. The celebration of the Jubilee year of Her Majesty's

reign is a common ground upon which all parties, all creeds, all races and all classes in Canada can unite with loyal pride.

In touching upon the events of the long and glorious reign of Queen Victoria it is scarcely possible for an inexperienced speaker to express his ideas in language that will not seem to be exaggerated. Within the sixty years of that reign, the British Empire has shared with the rest of the civilized world a more marvellous advance in the arts of peace than can be claimed for any similar period in the history of the human race. At the same time the people of Great Britain have distanced all other nations in their vast and almost fabulous increase in material wealth, and in the all pervading influence which their enterprise has given them in every part of the globe.

In 1837 it may have been a question as to what language and what race would lead the civilized world, but in 1897 no one can dispute that the English language and the Anglo-Saxon race must hold that proud position.

The political progress of the empire during the present reign cannot be better illustrated than by referring to Canadian history. In 1837 our system of government, while far in advance of the old Crown colony plan, was not based upon the same lines of freedom as prevailed in England itself. It cannot be said that peace and harmony prevailed in either Upper or Lower Canada at that time. How different it is to-day; England with wise generosity has given to Canada the fullest rights of self government, and the result is that in no other part of the empire can be found a more loyal and contented population.

While the Queen owes much to the distinguished line of statesmen who have been her advisers from Lord Melbourne to Lord Salisbury, still her own sound judgment, her patriotic loyalty to the constitution, and her womanly virtues, have combined to make her reign the greatest in English history.

I will now turn for a moment to a question on which we cannot all see eye to eye; I must express my great satisfaction at the settlement which the government has made as to the Manitoba schools. At one time the agitation on this subject was assuming dangerous proportions, and was a menace to the peace and good feeling which should prevail among citizens of all creeds in the Dominion. If the settlement with